



# Overview of Planetary Divisions Objectives

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Science Missions Directorate

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Ares-V Solar System Science Workshop

Assessment of NASA's  
Mars Architecture 2007-2016



NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
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The Scientific Context for  
EXPLORATION  
of the  
MOON



New Frontiers  
in Solar System  
Exploration

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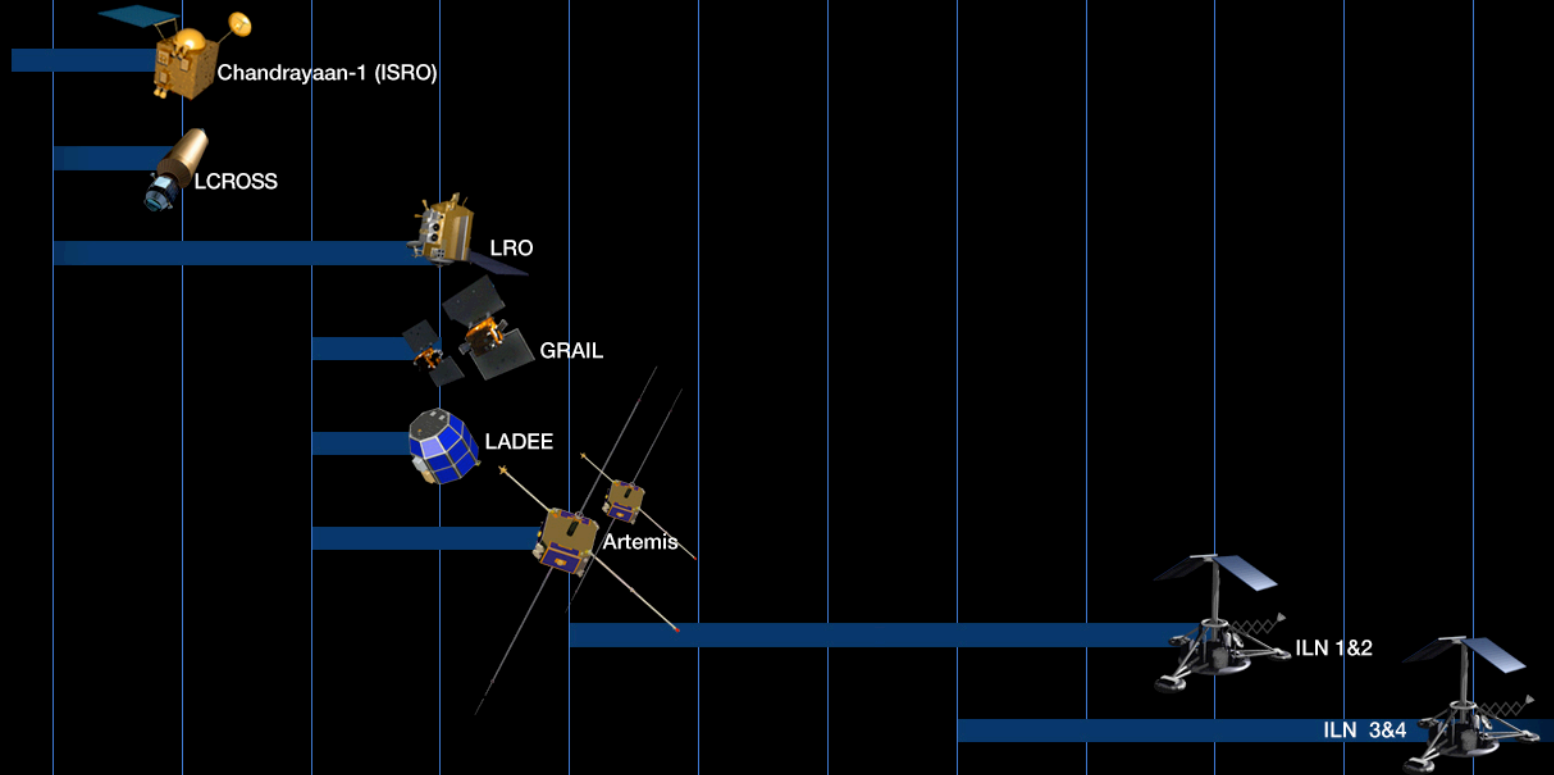
# NASA's Planetary Science

**Advance scientific knowledge of the origin and history of the solar system, the potential for life elsewhere, and the hazards and resources present as humans explore space**

**“Flyby, Orbit, Land, Rove, and Return Samples”**

# Lunar Mission timeline

MOON



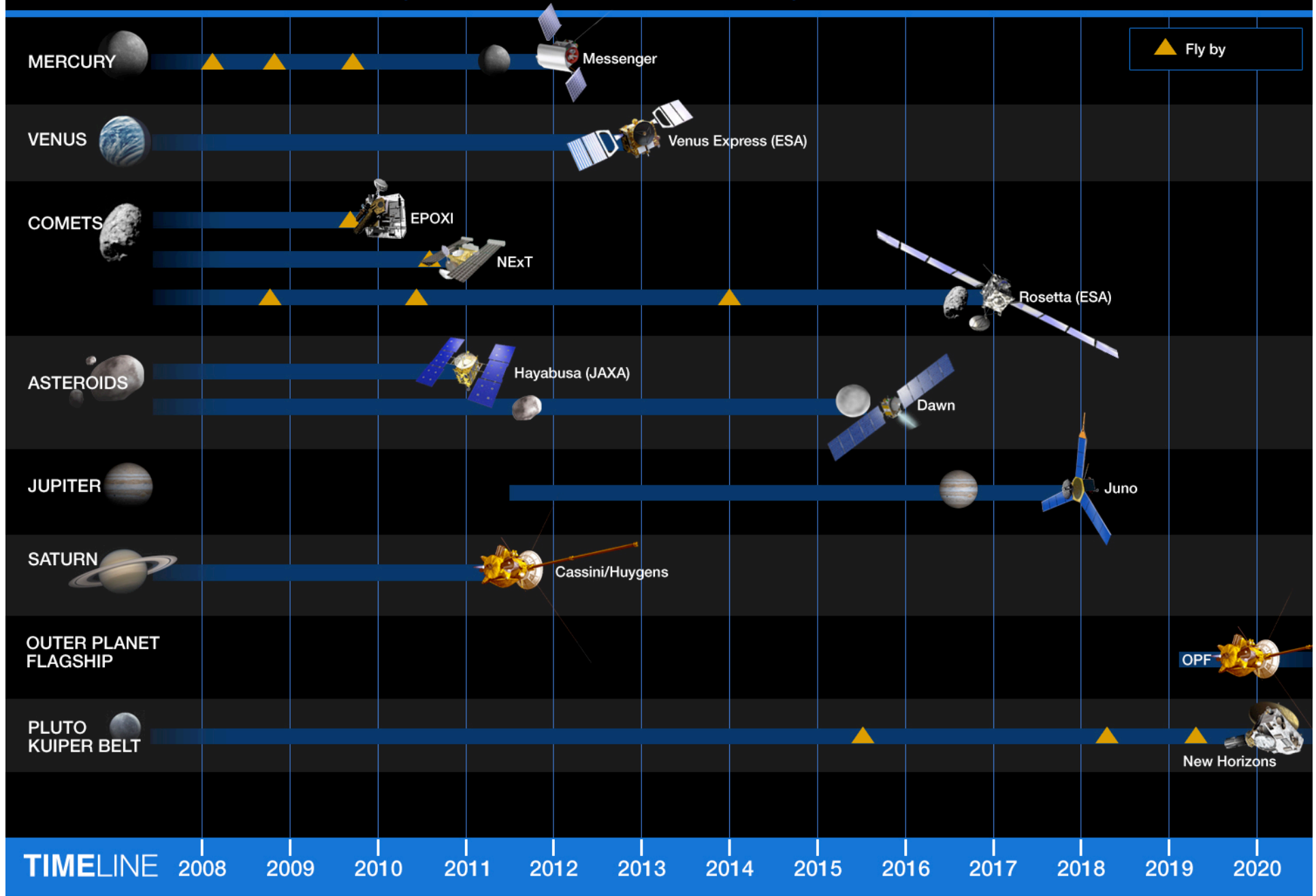
- International geophysical network
- Will require backside communications

**TIMELINE**

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020



# Planetary Missions (Non-Mars, Non-Lunar) timeline



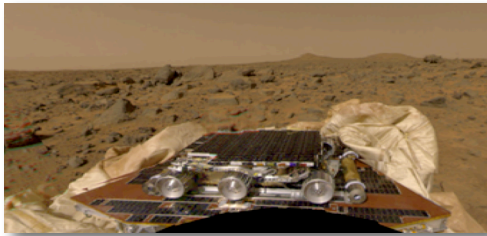




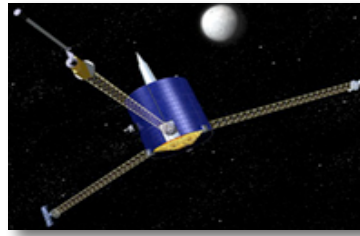
# Discovery Program

Completed

**Mars evolution:  
Mars Pathfinder (1996-1997)**



**Lunar formation:  
Lunar Prospector (1998-1999)**

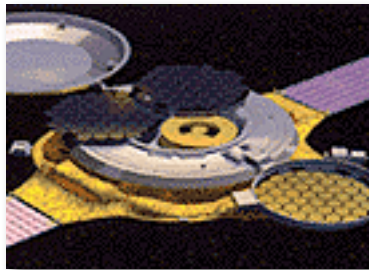


**NEO characteristics:  
NEAR (1996-1999)**

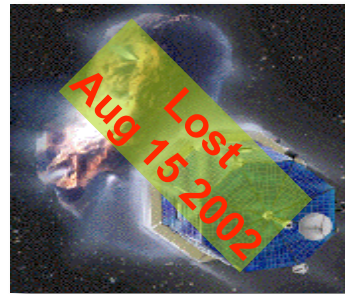


Completed / In Flight

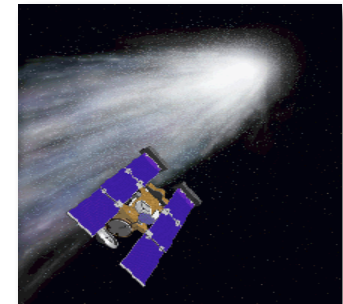
**Solar wind sampling:  
Genesis (2001-2004)**



**Comet diversity:  
CONTOUR**

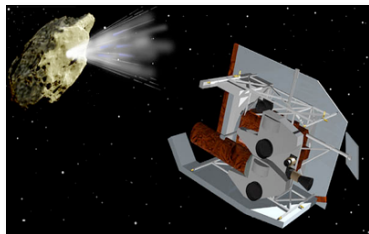


**Nature of dust/coma:  
Stardust(1999-2006 )**

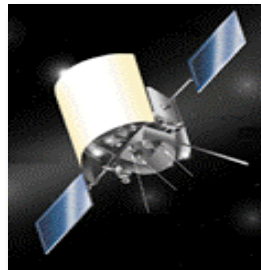


In Flight / In Development

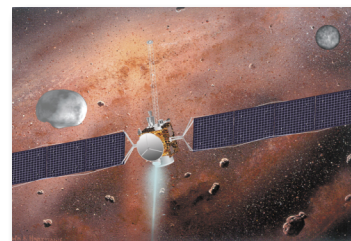
**Comet internal structure:  
Deep Impact (2005-2006)**



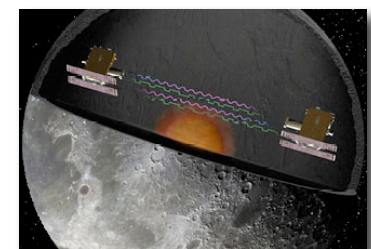
**Mercury environment:  
MESSENGER (2004-2012)**



**Main-belt asteroids:  
Dawn (2007-2015)**



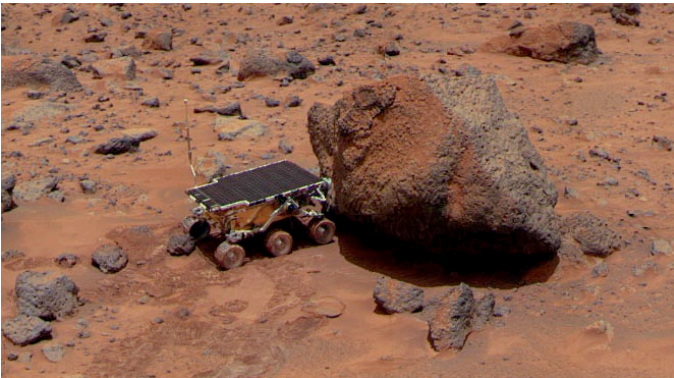
**Lunar Internal Structure  
GRAIL (2011-2012 )**



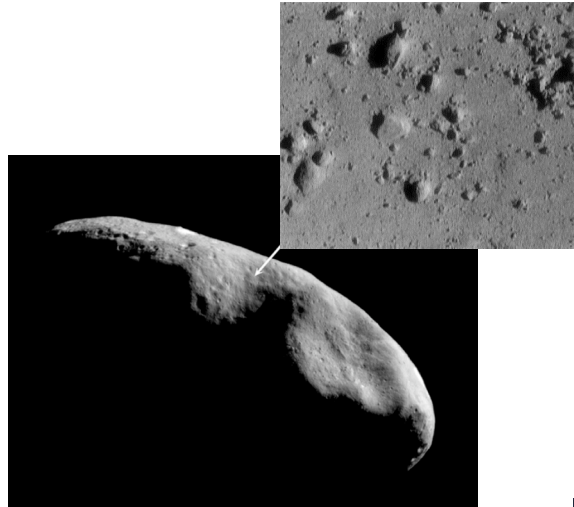


# Discovery Program Firsts

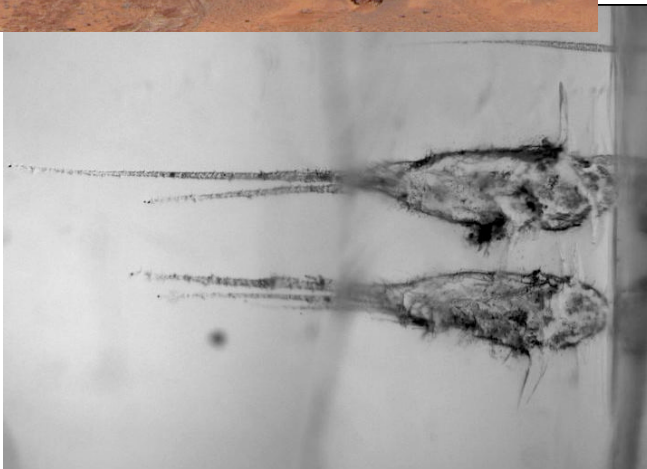
First surface rover to explore another planet (Mars Pathfinder)



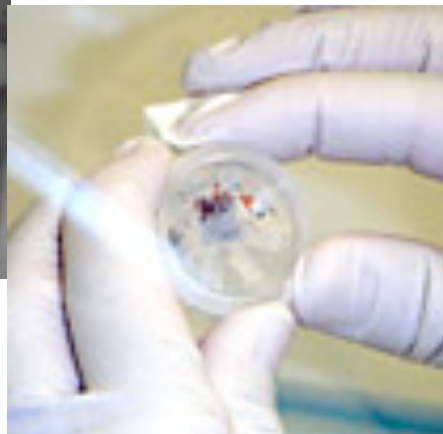
First to orbit and land on an asteroid (NEAR)



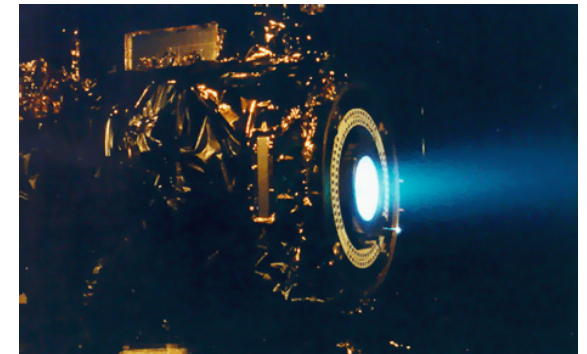
First look inside a comet (Deep Impact)



First to collect particles from a comet and return them to Earth (Stardust)

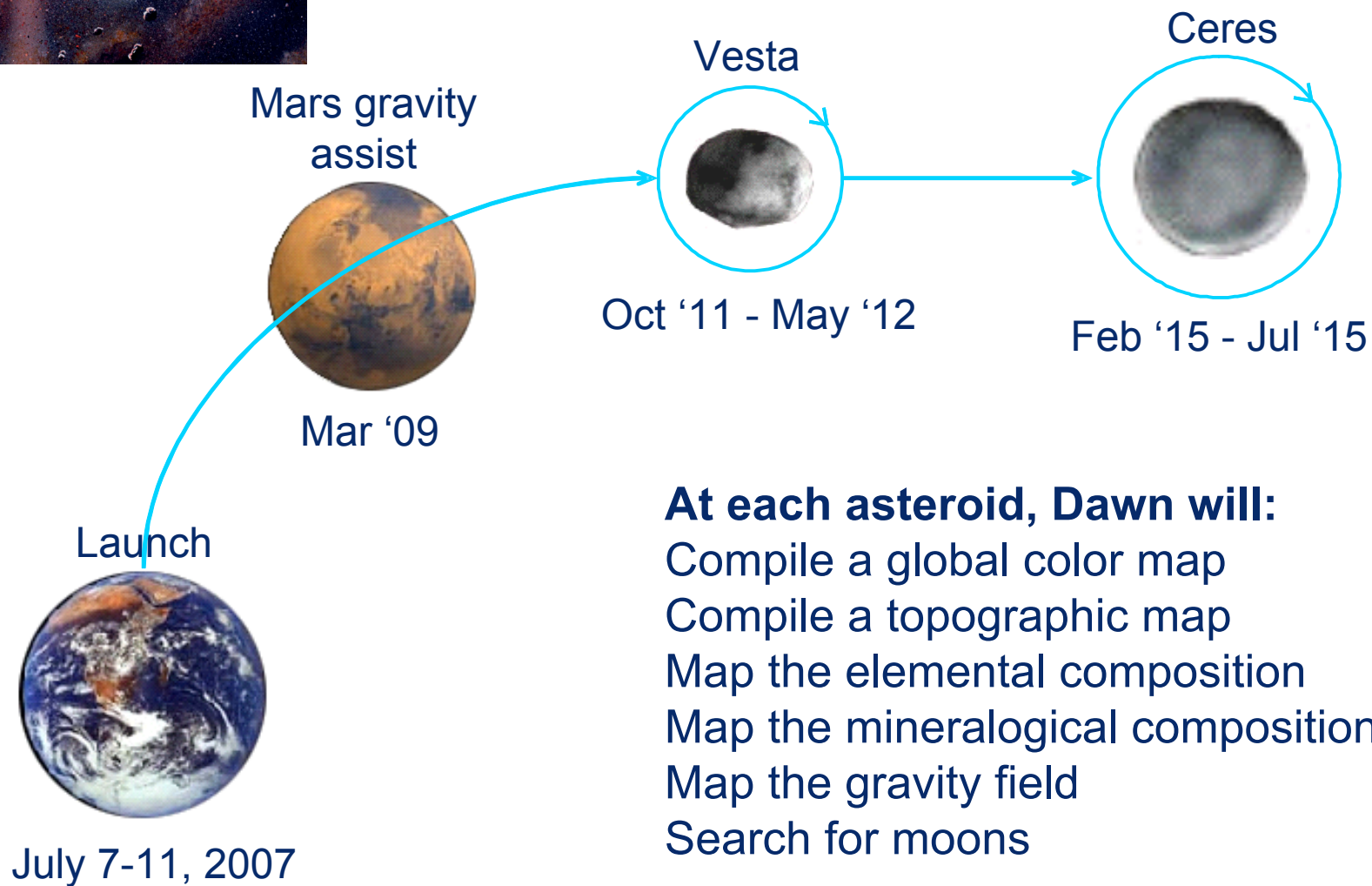
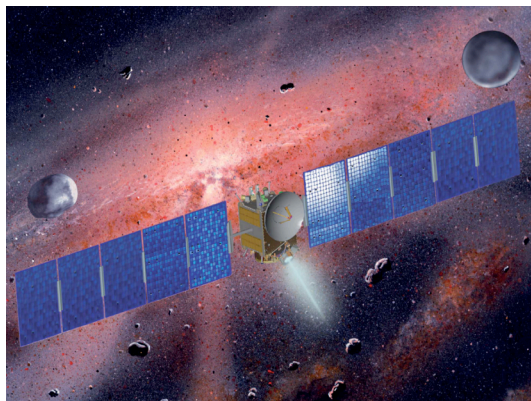


First to collect pieces of the Sun and return them to Earth (Genesis)



First purely science mission powered by ion propulsion (Dawn)

# DAWN







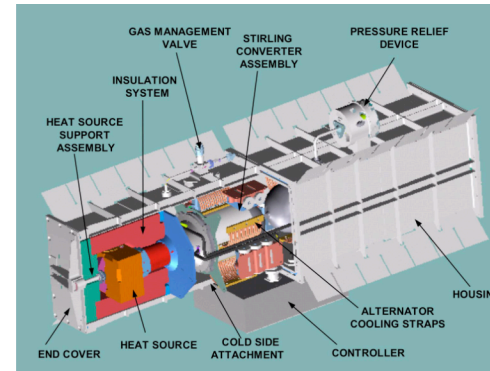
# DSMCE Program Overview

- Discovery-Scout Mission Capability Enhancement
- Program solicited mission concept proposals for small planetary missions that require the ASRG power source
  - Two Stirling Engines with ~140 Watts each (as GFE)
- Intended to foster science exploration in planetary science by missions enabled by ASRG
- Mission design assistance for these 6 month mission concept studies will be offered by NASA
- Selected 9 proposals out of 40 submitted

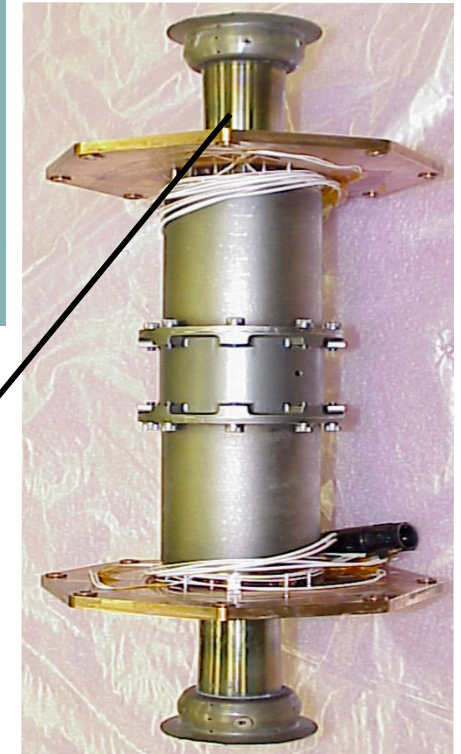


# Advanced Stirling Radioisotope Generator Engineering Unit

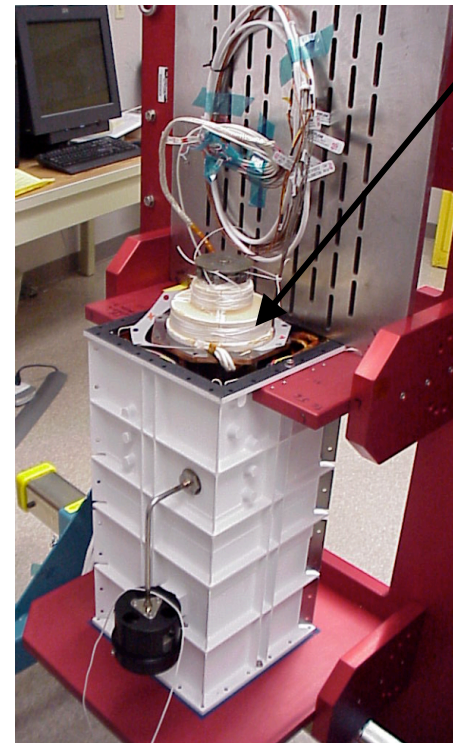
- Operation in space and on surface of atmosphere-bearing planets and moons
- Characteristics:
  - $\geq 14$  year lifetime
  - Nominal power : 140 We
  - Mass ~ 20 kg
  - System efficiency: ~ 30 %
  - 2 GPHS (“Pu<sup>238</sup> Bricks”) modules
  - Uses 0.8 kg Pu<sup>238</sup>
- Final wiring and connections for ASRG engineering unit underway
- Reliability to be demonstrated by the end of 2009



Lockheed Martin/Sunpower



**Paired converters  
with interconnect  
sleeve assembly**



**Outboard Housing and Paired ASC-Es**

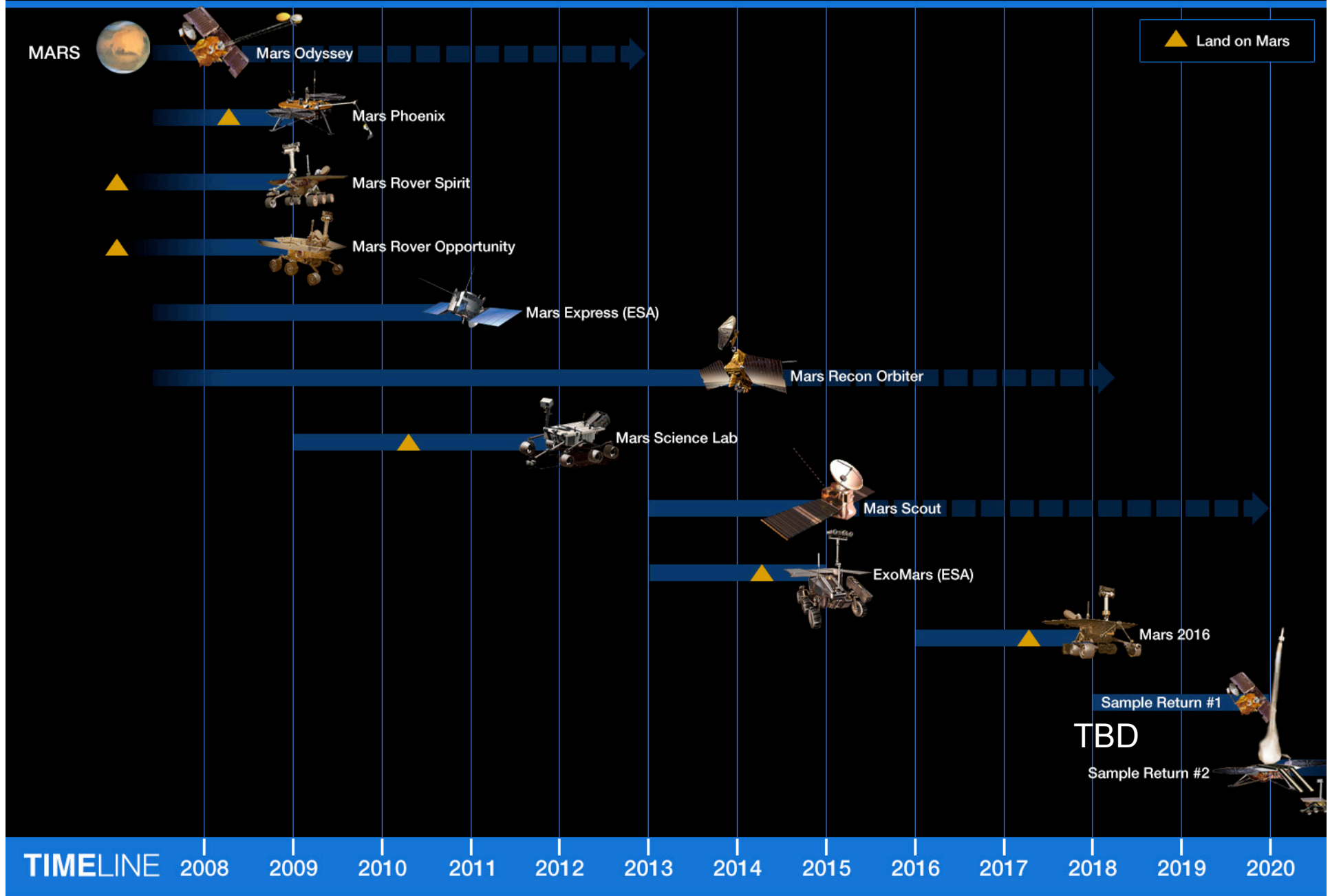


# DSMCE Selections

Baines, Kevin	JPL	Venus	Aerial Vehicle	Polar VALOR: The Feasibility of A Nuclear-Powered Long-Duration Balloon Mission to Explore the Poles of Venus
Elphic, Richard	Los Alamos National Laboratory	Moon	Lander	Locating and Characterizing Lunar Polar Volatiles: Feasibility of a Discovery-Class Mission
Jolliff, Bradley	Washington University	Moon	Rover	Journey to the land of Eternal Darkness and Ice (JEDI): A Lunar Polar Volatile Explorer
Rivkin, Andrew	Applied Physics Lab	Asteroid	Lander	Ilion: An ASRG-Enabled Trojan Asteroid Mission Concept
Hecht, Michael	JPL	Mars	Lander	A tour through Martian history: An ASRG-powered polar ice borehole.
Stofan, Ellen	Proxemy Research	Outer Planets	Lander	Titan Mare Explorer (TiME)
McEwen, Alfred	University of Arizona	Outer Planets	Orbiter	Mission Concept: Io Volcano Observer (IVO)
Sandford, Scott	NASA/AMES	Comet	Sample Return	Concept Study for a Comet Coma Rendezvous Sample Return Mission
Sunshine, Jessica	Univeristy of Maryland	Comet	Lander	Comet Hopper



# Mars Mission timeline



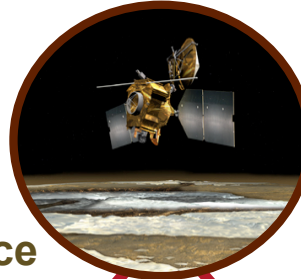


# Mars Exploration Approach

*A CONNECTED  
SET OF  
MISSIONS*

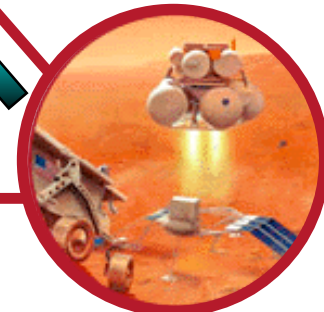
*RESPONSIVE  
to  
DISCOVERIES*

**SEEK**  
Orbital and  
Airborne  
Reconnaissance



- Where to look
- The context
- Foundation datasets
- Finding safe landing sites
- Comm infrastructure

**SAMPLE**  
Return rock and  
soil samples



- Definitive testing of hypotheses
- Experiments to test biological potential

**IN-SITU**

(surface)  
Experiments and  
Reconnaissance



- Ground-truthing
- Surface reconnaissance
- Seeing under the dust
- Subsurface access

Mars Systems  
Science:  
The Context for  
Biological Potential



# New Frontiers Program

1<sup>st</sup> NF mission  
New Horizons:

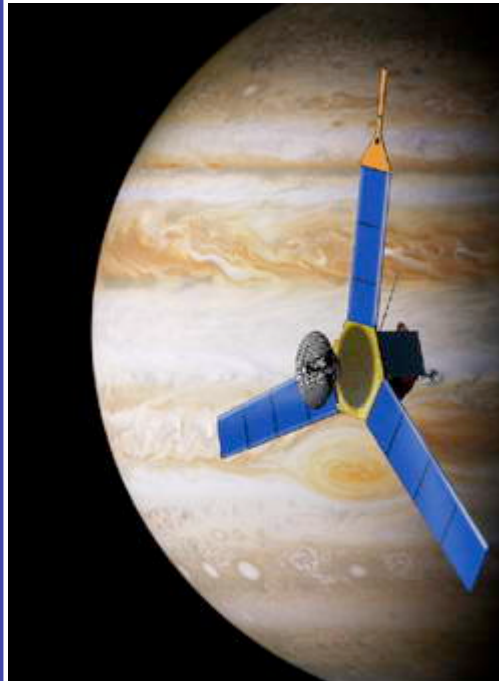
**Pluto-Kuiper Belt  
Mission**



Launched January 2006  
Arrives July 2015

2<sup>nd</sup> NF mission  
JUNO:

**Jupiter Polar Orbiter  
Mission**



August 2011 launch

3<sup>rd</sup> NF mission opportunity

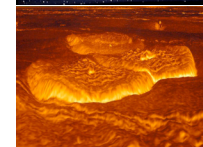
South Pole  
Aitken Basin Sample  
Return



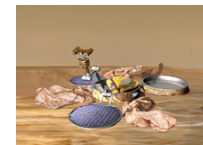
Comet Surface  
Sample Return (CSSR)



Venus In Situ  
Explorer (VISE)



Network Science



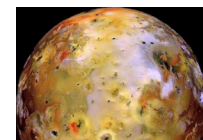
Trojan/Centaur



Asteroid Sample Return



Io Observer



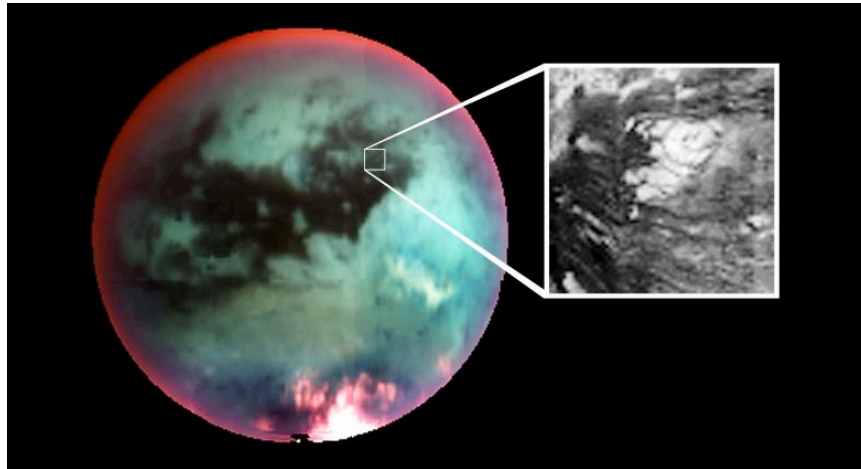
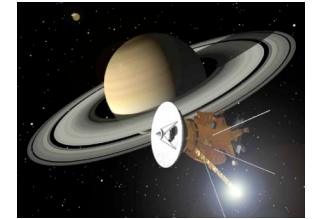
Ganymede Observer



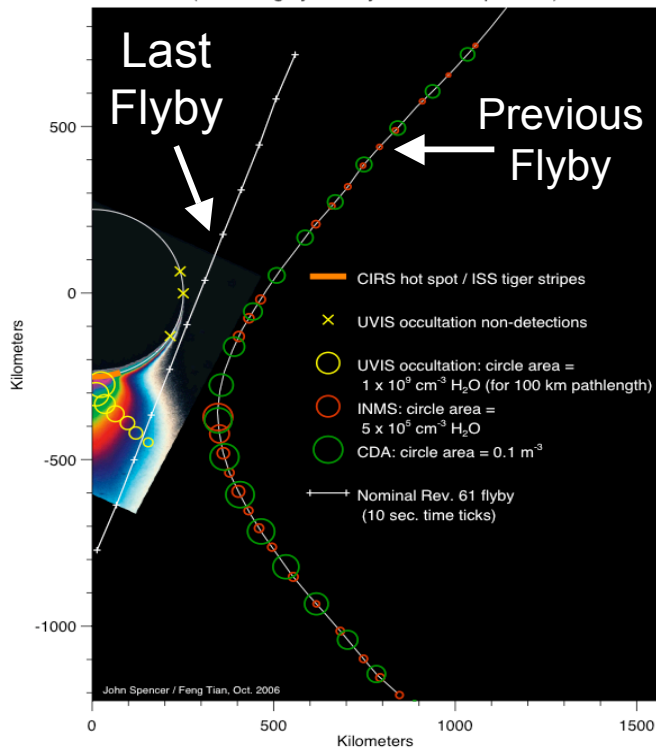




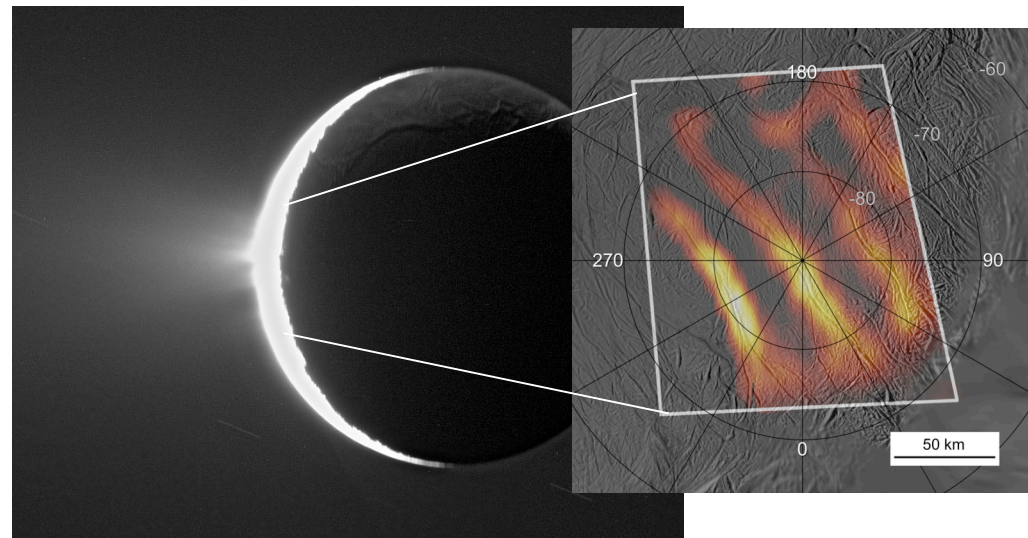
# Cassini-Huygens

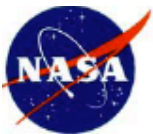


Composite of 2005 Enceladus Plume Observations  
(assuming symmetry about the spin axis)

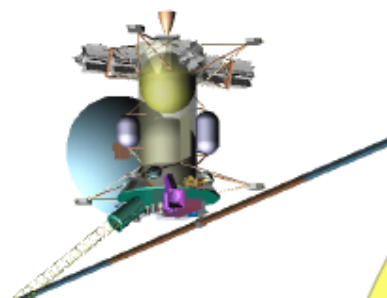


- Detailed orbital investigation of Saturn, rings, magnetosphere, Titan, and icy satellites
- Launched: October 15, 1997
- Saturn arrival: July 1, 2004
- Huygens probe at Titan: Jan. 14, 2005
- 4 yrs primary mission with 2 yrs extension





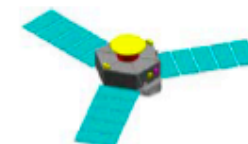
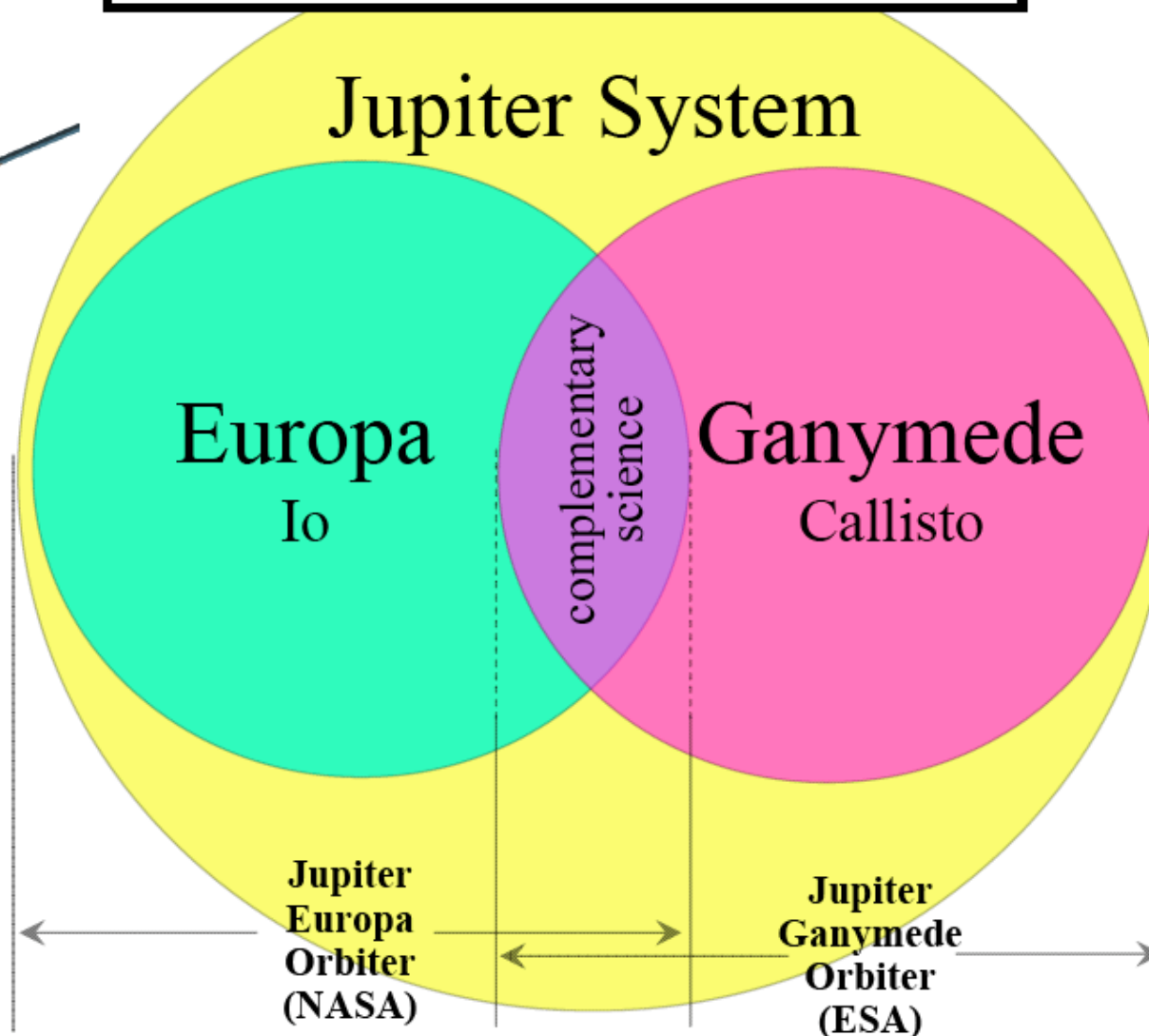
## The Emergence of Habitable Worlds Around Gas Giants



NASA Jupiter  
Europa Orbiter  
(JEO)

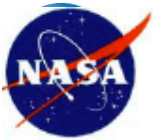


ESA Jupiter  
Ganymede Orbiter  
(JGO)



JAXA Jupiter  
Magnetospheric  
Orbiter (JMO)

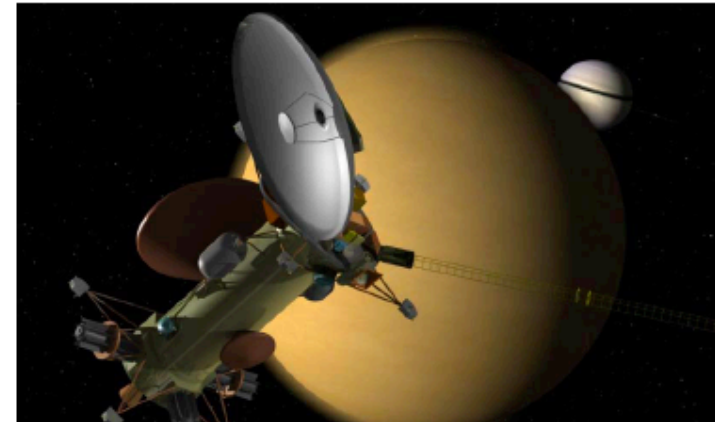
JEO is designed to stand alone or operate synergistically with ESA JGO



# Titian Core Mission Overview

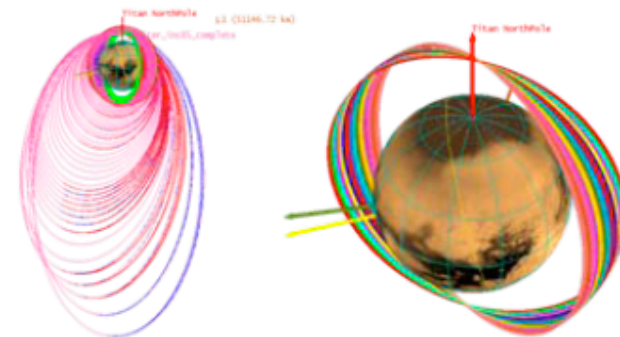


- **Objective:** Titan orbit, Saturn system and Enceladus
- **Orbiter accommodates ESA provided in situ elements;**
  - Core mission includes lander
  - Sweet spot and Enhanced missions include both lander and Montgolfiere but exceed study cost cap
- **Mission Timeline:**
  - Launch 9/2016
  - Saturn Arrival 9/2026
  - Saturn Tour; includes 4 Enceladus and 15 Titan flybys
  - Dedicated Titan aerosampling and mapping Orbit
- **Focused payload; 6 inst. + RSA**



Interplanetary Trajectory  
Venus-Earth-Earth gravity assist

Launch	Sep-09-2016
DSM	Jan-12-2017
Venus	Nov-25-2017
Earth	Jan-27-2019
Earth	May-04-2022
Arrival	Sep-09-2026







# ESA Provided *In situ* elements



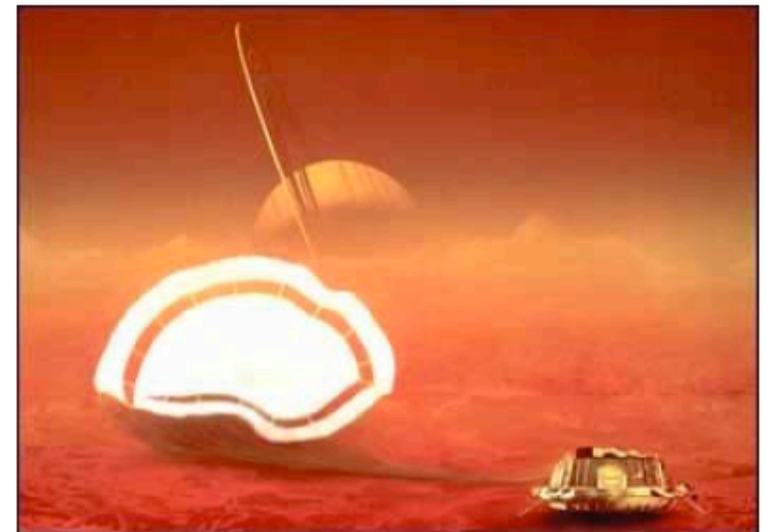
- **Montgolfiere Balloon**

- Release 6 months prior to arrival;  $<6\text{km/s}$
- Near equatorial to mid latitude location
- Relay to orbiter and Direct to Earth (DTE) in Saturn tour; relay after TOI
- Floats at 10km (+2 -8 km) altitude
- Circumnavigates the globe
- Lower atmosphere and surface science
- $> 6$  months earth year life science reqmt



- **Capable Lander**

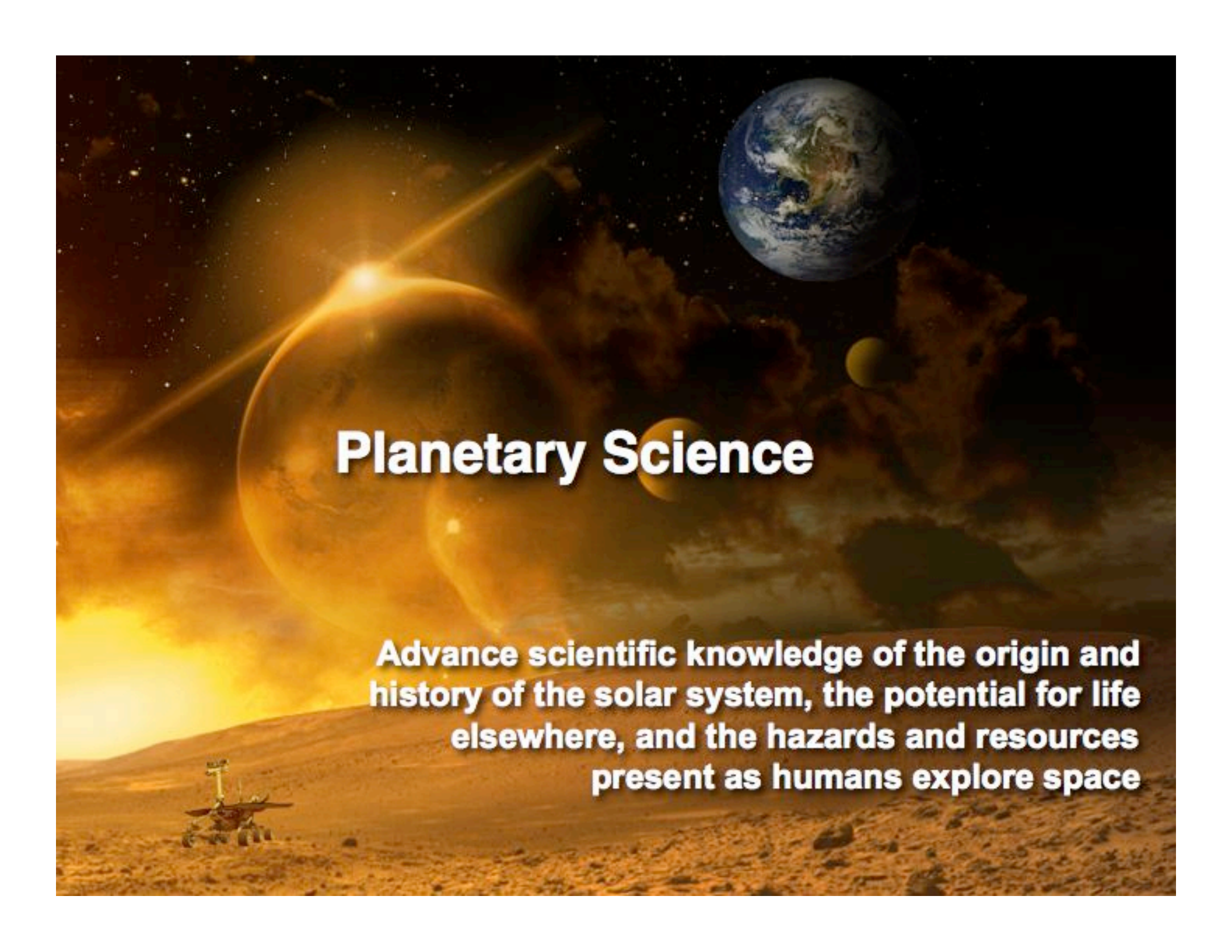
- Would land in lake or dry lake bed at northern latitudes, or mid latitude
- Very similar entry conditions to balloon
- Similar relay options to balloon
- Surface, hydrology and interior science
- $>1$  earth month (2 Titan days) life for dry landing
  - $>1$  hours lake landing, battery power





# Mission Architectures Trends

- Continue with flyby and orbit as initial steps
- Will see more multi-element missions for specific planetary bodies
  - Lander/rovers will require orbiting assets
  - Sample return
- Development and use of key technologies
  - In-space propulsion systems
  - Radio isotope power system
- Will require more heavy lift capability
- Take advantage of coordinating multi-agency missions

A composite image representing planetary science. The foreground shows a reddish, rocky Martian landscape with a small rover on the left. The sky is a deep orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A large, bright orange planet with a visible ring system dominates the left side of the frame. In the upper right, the Earth is visible as a blue and white sphere. A comet with a long tail streaks across the upper left portion of the sky.

# **Planetary Science**

**Advance scientific knowledge of the origin and history of the solar system, the potential for life elsewhere, and the hazards and resources present as humans explore space**